

Barrington's Substance Abuse Task Force

Drug Free Community Coalition

Barrington Public Library Board Room

County Road Barrington, RI 02806

Monday, February 3, 2014 at 8:45 am.

Minutes

Present: Kathy Sullivan (Staff), Dr. Kristen Westmoreland (Staff), Ariel Alves (youth), Joanne Royley (School), Stacie McLoughlin (Parent), Marta Iachetta (School), Achina Stein (Organization involved in Reducing Substance Use), Heather Annis (Faith Community), Deb Jerome (Civic group), Sara Kriz (media), Jonathan Ashuler (School), Elsie Wright (School), Morgan Silva (youth), Doug Antony (youth), Mimi Karlin (youth), Chris O'Brien (youth), Susan Freel (parent)

Guests: Karina Wood (Smoke Free RI), Anna Meehan, Dept of Behavioral Health RI

Not present: Deena Davis (Parent), Martha Donovan (Parent), Lauren Walker (youth), Deb Perugini (staff), Chief John LaCross (Law Enforcement), Eileen Johnson (Healthcare), Alexandra Ray (youth), Nancy Guertin (Organization involved in Reducing Substance Use), Maycie Culley (youth) Lara Courturier (parent), Denise Alves (State Organization with Expertise in field of substance abuse), Harper Berriman (youth), Diane Block (health care), Bill Cameron (business),

Grethe Cobb (healthcare), Claudia Gordon (Parent), Maureen Janetta (School), Bob Shea (School), Chuck Lzbash (Youth Serving Organization), Heidi Fanion (Parent), Eleanor Swe (Parent), Kim Kelly (youth), Bill Dewitt (Business)

Tobacco Prevention Presentation:

Karina Wood of Smoke Free RI did a presentation on the Tobacco Prevention efforts in RI. The group is comprised of members from medical groups and prevention groups and prioritizes policy at the state and local level to reduce tobacco use.

Karina spoke about RI's Smoke Free workplace legislation of 2005 which helped changed norms and reduce use. They have also worked to keep the price high through taxation.

\$8.00 a pack in RI About \$3.50 in taxes

\$12.00 a pack in NYC Highest taxes in RI

The higher the price point the harder it is for youth to purchase.

Tobacco revenue goes into the general revenue with no dedicated funds for prevention. 80% of smokers want to quit, but they need support.

We need to ask the general assembly to fund prevention with the revenue from taxation. Some states do this. We still have 1 in 5 people who smoke and the cost to society is unacceptable and

preventable. The need support for www.quitworksri.org

Disparities – different socioeconomic groups have diff rates of smoking.

Low income, people of color, and those with mental health problems have higher rates.

Electronic Cigarettes

Advertised to youth (Teen Vogue) The youth in the group acknowledge seeing more students using e cigs on campus and hookah sticks.

There is a bill to prohibit the sale of e cigs to those under 18.

Right now the FDA is studying these products, but they are completely unregulated.

NYC banned e cigs

Boston City Council banned the use of them in public parks.

Nicotine has an adverse effect on the developing brain. Youth have greater pathways to addiction. Most long term (addicted) smokers started before the age of 18. Some would like to raise the age of purchase to 21 for cigarettes.

Hookah pens are filled with a liquid similar to an e cigarette.

As an organization which bases its information on science, there is no evidence to say these products are safe. Nicotine is not in itself safe and should not be used in one's body.

Legislative priorities:

- 1. E cig bill to prohibit sales to minors**
- 2. Raise funding for tobacco prevention**
- 3. Increase cigarette tax by another \$1.00**

News and Updates

Parenting Liaisons will meet at Yogo Crazy on Feb 25th, at 7 pm.

Committee Reports

Youth:

BAYouth

Kick Butts Day planning.

Reality Wall – wall of posters having students write in a negative consequence of alcohol use. To be displayed in the cafeteria. AS was interested in finding out if parents would also hear this message.

BAY Team is working with BMS PTO to also host.

Hosting Matt Bellace in April – Natural Highs presentation by a comedian/psychologist. Open to St. Andrews and BCA students.

CHOICES – preparing for Drug Awareness week for daily announcements and posters. Will promote Matt Bellace and the Reality wall with the students.

St. Andrews – Students created videos about the dangers of posting material on the internet. The student SADD group also has Wacky Wednesdays, time set aside to become involved with creative activities rather than substance use or other negative behavior.

JR mentioned an idea for high school students called “Delete Day” – this is a suggestion to get students to remove all negative pictures from their social media.

Policy – the group will be working with JR to explore the school policies and look at ways these can be strengthened.

Parenting – the group continues to develop the PreSchool program. SF is working on distributing these to the preschools in the community.

The Parenting Committee is planning a meeting of all PTO liaisons and PTO presidents. They will meet at the donated space by YoGo crazy. This will be an opportunity to do some brain storming and planning for the year. The new date is 2/25 a 7 pm.

Marijuana – the team continues to develop the Marijuana conversation starters. The group will meet again on 2/11 at 10 at BHS.

Prescription Drug - Next Drug Take Back is on 4/26. Needs to set up a new meeting date.

Sustainability - the group spent last month's meeting time at a retreat to work on the Sustainability plan.

Next meeting:

Monday, March 3rd at 8:45 am in BHS Library

Adjourn